

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 8-20, 22, 23, and 25-29 remain active in this application, Claim 20 having been amended by the present Amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action Claim 20 was rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph as being indefinite, Claim 7 was rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Applicant's admitted prior art, Claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 8-20 and 25-29 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's admitted prior art in view of Tanaka et al (US 5,506,429), Claims 22 and 23 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's admitted prior in view of Tanaka et al.

In light of the comments in the outstanding Official Action regarding Claim 20, Claim 20 has been amended to be in independent form and is believed to be allowable in view of the indication to that effect in the Official Action dated March 26, 2004.

Turning now to the outstanding grounds for rejection stated in the outstanding Official Action, the outstanding Official Action states a finding that the Applicant's admitted prior art (hereinafter, called AAA) discloses "contacts which are formed in strip shapes along an electric charge transfer direction." However, the contacts 9 in Fig. 2 of AAA are formed in a direction different from X and Y directions which express the electric charge transfer direction, i.e., a direction vertical to the sheet. That is, the contacts 9 of AAA are formed in the same direction as the contact holes of Tanaka, and are formed in a direction different from a direction of the contacts stated in the pending claims.

Indeed, as shown in the exemplary embodiment of Fig. 4 of Applicants' disclosure, the contacts 9b have the same structure as that of the contacts 9 in Fig. 2. The contacts 7a

and 9a are shown in Fig. 4 separately from the contacts 9b. The contacts of the present invention correspond to the contacts 7a and 9a, but not to the contact 9b.

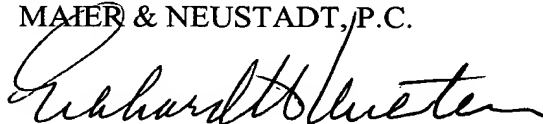
As shown in Fig. 4, the contacts of the present invention are formed along the electric charge transfer direction of the CCD register (hereinafter, X direction), or along a direction crossing substantially at right angles to the electric charge transfer direction under the shift electrode (hereinafter Y direction). Therefore, outside light incident to CCD register can be shielded by the contacts. However, since the contacts of AAA and Tanaka are formed in the Z direction different from X and Y directions, it is impossible to shield the outside light.

As described above, the contacts of AAA and Tanaka are different from the contacts of the present invention in shape and in how the contacts are disposed. Therefore, the contacts of the present invention clearly are not rendered obvious by the descriptions of AAA and Tanaka. Furthermore, AAA and Tanaka neither disclose, suggest or obtain the advantageous effect of the claimed invention. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the outstanding rejection on the merits is traversed and that the pending claims patentably distinguish over the cited prior art.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the above comments, no further issues are believed to be outstanding and the pending claims are believed to be allowable. An early and favorable action to that effect is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Eckhard H. Kuesters
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 28,870

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413-2220
(OSMMN 06/04)

I:\ATTY\EHK\AMEND-RESPONSES\0039\39s\00397552US-AF.DOC